

DISCUSSANT

Update on 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (Detailed DHC)

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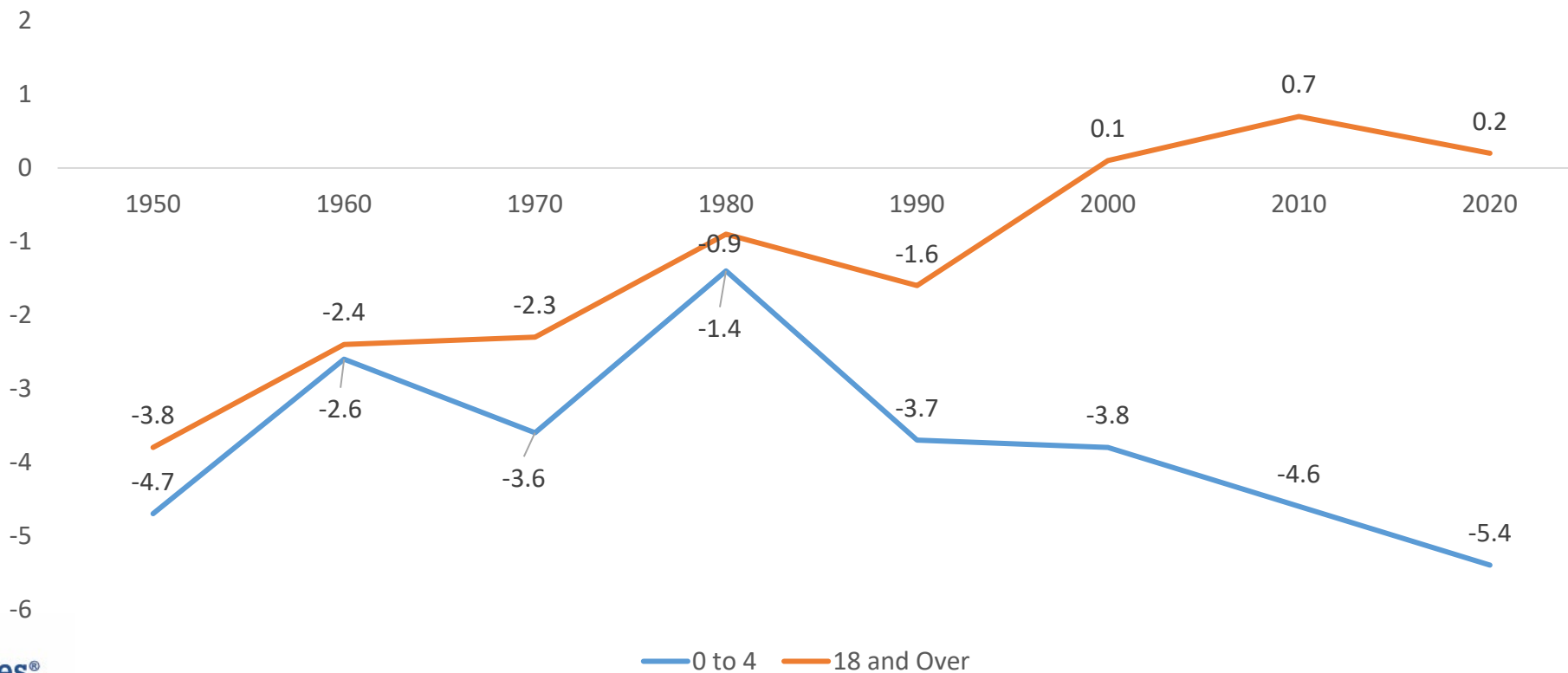
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Bureau's Progress and Responsiveness

- Listening and responding to stakeholder feedback is crucial for keeping public trust (in coordination with data)
- DDHC is a recognition of the growing diversity of our country especially for those ethnic populations who may be subsumed under the large racial and ethnic categories
- Information about the households and relationship of household members is some of the most important data produced by the Census Bureau
- Attending to the tension between privacy and accuracy
- Consideration of equity in data files
- Ability to provide information for some groups (e.g., AIAN Tribes & Villages)

2020 Net Undercount for Young Children

Net Undercount for Young Children Worsens While Count for Adults Improves



Federal Spending on Kids in 10 Large Programs: 2017 Fiscal Year

Program	Obligations
Estimated Federal Medicaid Spending Going to Children*	\$60,882,222,000
Estimated Federal SNAP Spending Going to Children^	\$29,187,354,000
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**	\$17,096,198,545
State Children's Health Insurance Program**	\$13,761,924,000
National School Lunch Program**	\$12,042,774,000
Special Education Grants**	\$11,779,555,245
Head Start**	\$8,648,933,810
Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants and Children**	\$6,383,830,000
Foster Care	\$4,727,773,596
Child Care	\$2,840,075,000

2020 Data Products Compared to 2010

Balance between accurate statistics and protecting privacy

Questions

- How does the Bureau plan on determining which tables to drop?
- What is lost by reducing the number of tables? Will this impact the ability to know how to improve undercounts of certain groups and communities?
- Is the Bureau thinking about different strategies to increase the number of tables released for smaller geographies (i.e., provide below county data for large counties; provide less detailed data for smaller geographies).

Differential Privacy: Children

Preserving the relationship between adults and children in household is critical.

Questions:

- Has the Bureau developed and finalized the algorithm that will preserve the relationship between children and adults in the household?
- If the Bureau can preserve the link in the DDHC, why not use that method in the DHC?
- Why does the family type table only provide data for “own children” and not ALL children like the household type table?
- Why not iterate the DDHC table on own children by family type by race and ethnicity?
- What is the limit on household size you are considering to protect privacy?

Differential Privacy Algorithm: Equity

DP impacts smaller groups and geographies more than larger ones.

- What is the impact of DP on communities and groups that were undercounted in 2020? Will the infusion of DP further erode quality?
- What is the cost of guaranteeing privacy, especially for communities that are undercounted whose information will be further suppressed because of the DP guarantee?
- How will some of the DP algorithm for Join impact groups differently such as the rule for truncation?

Differential Privacy Algorithm: Equity Cont'd

- What research has the Bureau done or does it plan to do on the impact of the DP algorithm on different communities (e.g., young children, Hispanics, Blacks)?
- How does attending to equity impact how you look and evaluate your algorithms and decision-making (e.g., undercounted=higher errors)?
 - For example, when you say “allow for equity across all major race and ethnicity categories” what does this mean because it sounds like equality?

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

- What is the process used to ensure there is effective communication about the use of what is in each table in the DDHC and how it can be used? Is there information on who is using the products and gathering immediate feedback?
- Will there be a robust communication and evaluation of whether the changes to the DDHC are meeting the needs of stakeholders, and whether it will support current programs being fielded especially ahead of 2030 Census?

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication cont'd

- What is your plan and process for talking with state and local policymakers, such as city managers and staff to gauge whether this information is understood by the public and critical decisionmakers?
- Is there attention to reaching out to specific groups/organization/advocates that have been historically undercounted including child advocates, Black communities (especially males), Hispanics, and GQs to understand the implications of these decisions.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication (cont'd)

- To what extent are you communicating with and sharing data with researchers at HBCUs, MSIs, etc. who have the technical knowledge and in-depth knowledge about specific communities?
- Are the Census Information Centers State Data Centers activated and fully resourced since they represent all the key stakeholders in every state?

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication (cont'd)

- Who are your stakeholders? Are you connecting to organizations and institutions who can look at some of your output data, especially for ethnic minority groups and children?
- Considering the implications of some of these decisions about reduced products and truncation, for example, how are these changes shared with diverse groups and stakeholders? Who are you prioritizing (or not)?

Committee Discussion